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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

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SUPPLEMENT

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the policy of automatic reclassification of CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

1. Max Fechner has denied a statement recently made by the Berlin Telegraf, which charged that he had written a letter to the executive committee of the SED to complain that former SPD members are discriminated against by former KPD members in the SED. Fechner maintains that the mention of such a letter was merely an attempt on the part of the Telegraf and the SPD to sow discord within the ranks of the SED.
2. At a conference with editors of SED newspapers in Berlin on 25 June 1947, Hermann Matern, chairman of the SED state directorate, spoke on the present situation in Berlin. His remarks, previously approved by the executive committee of the SED, were generally directed against SPD policy or lack of policy, to which, he claimed, the acute distress of the city may be attributed. The population of Berlin must be made to realize that, although it is not an opposition party, the SED cannot be held responsible for prevailing conditions. Matern went on to state that it is the duty of the SED, through constant criticism, to force the SPD into a positive line of action. The attempt to link Berlin solely with the West must cease, and supplies must be drawn from all four countries; Poland, Matern said, has replied favorably to SED inquiries concerning the possibility of a trade agreement, but the city government, although informed of this, has made no move. [REDACTED] the SED has been discussing trade pacts with Poland and Czechoslovakia through (Bruno ?) Baum of the SED city directorate.
3. The impression appears to be prevalent in SED circles that the party is losing ground in Berlin, as well as in the western zones, where, of course, it is hampered in that it is not yet a legal party. Ulbricht recently conferred with delegates from the western zones, but failed to reveal any conclusions which they may have reached. Mass meetings held in Berlin have had extremely poor attendance; for example, only 400 persons appeared to hear Hermann Matern's last public address.

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